

Building U.S.-China Bridges



中國中心

CHINA CENTER

Annual Report
2004-2005

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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Note about Chinese names: The China Center's policy is to print an individual's name according to the custom of the place where they live (e.g., family name first for a person who lives in China).

From the Director



Dr. Hong Yang

It has been very rewarding for me to lead the China Center in this time of dynamic change. I can say with certainty that these great strides are a direct result of the amazing support the China Center has received from the community—from individual donors to volunteers to corporate partners. With this support, we continue to establish positive and beneficial relationships throughout China. Many initiatives sown this year are already beginning to bear fruit.

The China Center is deeply grateful for the exceptional support we receive from community leaders in education, business, government, and many other diverse sectors. It is with this help that we build new bridges and foster new programs to enhance our strong bond with China. I especially want to thank the corporate community, who so

diligently supported our efforts to increase the visibility of Minnesota companies and the University of Minnesota in China.

We are proud to welcome this year's China Center Corporate Partners—Best Buy; Cargill; Dorsey and Whitney, L.L.P.; Fredrikson and Byron, P.A.; Griffin International Companies; and Lurie Besikof Lapidus & Company, L.L.P. With their support we will continue to create even more opportunities for Minnesota to develop deeper and long-lasting relationships with China.

The China Center Friends, a group of enthusiastic supporters, set an ambitious schedule and hosted or co-sponsored an event nearly every month. Highlights included a lecture and display of Chinese porcelains for Chinese New Year, a special night at the Children's Theatre Company's performance of the "Monkey King," and a year-end spring picnic. The enthusiasm and dedication of the Friends has been rewarding to observe and be a part of. It has personally been inspiring to work with such a committed group of people.

Thank you to our donors, whose generosity allowed the China Center to provide more than 15 scholarships to students traveling to mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Because of the generous support of the Red Pockets Appeal, we were able to triple the number of students we help. These additional scholarships directly contributed to the success of the short-term study abroad China Seminars and should encourage even more students to consider studying in China.

Our annual China Day for high school students studying Mandarin Chinese was again a great success with more than 400 students attending. This year we partnered with the Science Museum of Minnesota to bring the event off campus to coincide with the museum's *Chinasaurus* exhibit. This event is so important to us because it involves the younger generation, who we hope will continue to study Mandarin and stay interested in and connected to the Chinese culture.

Through our Mingda Institute for Leadership Training this year we hosted more than 200 Chinese professionals for custom training programs in a variety of fields, from business and law to health care management and education. This program has created strong relationships between Minnesotans and the Chinese participants, which continue to prosper even after the trainees return to China.

I hope you can agree that community support of the China Center is vital and has had a huge impact on our success this year. I sincerely thank all who have supported our efforts and look forward to our continued collaboration throughout the year to come. *Xie Xie!*

Morris campus develops connections in China

Twelve students from the University of Minnesota, Morris campus visited Jiashan County in southeastern China in June. The program was initiated during a recent exploratory trip to China by UMM Chancellor Sam Schuman when Jiashan County Mayor George Shen, an alumnus of the China Center's Mingda Institute, invited UMM students to visit Jiashan Senior High School.

UMM students gained valuable insights into Chinese culture as well as into the daily life and local cuisine of the country. UMM students taught English classes, attended a local kindergarten's performance for International Children's Day, and had time to socialize with the students at the high school.

Results of the trip are already being realized. UMM will offer a course in Mandarin Chinese beginning fall 2005. UMM is actively seeking educational partners in China and recruiting students from China. In addition, a group of students from Jiashan High School will attend UMM's Summer Scholars program in July 2006.



UMM student Ajeng Puspitasari visits Shanghai with her host sister

Exchange program brings Chinese scholar to Minnesota

Through the China Center's Chinese Universities Exchange Program (CUEP), each year a Chinese scholar studies at the University of Minnesota and a Minnesota student studies in China. The 2004-05 visiting scholar is Dr. Lei Jun, associate professor of geology at Peking University.

This is not Dr. Lei's first visit to the U.S.; however, by living here and interacting with local people in various fields, he says he has learned so much more about both the educational and social



Dr. Lei with his language partner, Matt

aspects of American life. For example, classes in geology are usually considered boring to Chinese students. After attending some classes at the U of M, Dr. Lei realized that professors really know how to engage students in class activities and conduct classes in a lively format.

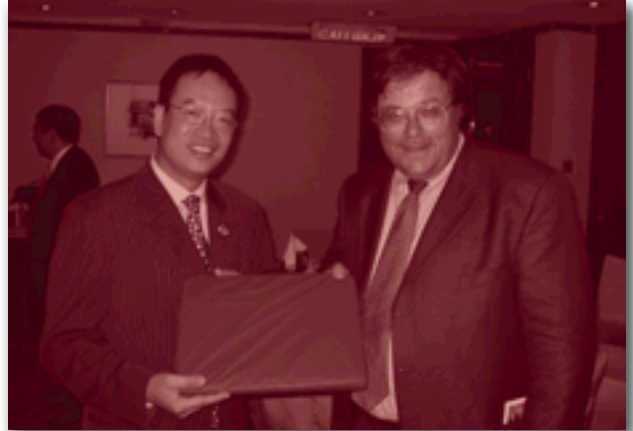
Dr. Lei says he feels at home in Minnesota thanks to support from the China Center, including its language partner program. Dr. Lei has established a close relationship with his language partner Matt, a student in the Carlson School of Management. And, surprisingly, Dr. Lei even loves Minnesota winters!

Health-care administration program establishes presence in Hong Kong

Hospital administrators across China and Southeast Asia soon will have a new University of Minnesota source for up-to-date training. In November 2005, the School of Public Health's Master's in Healthcare Administration program will establish an official presence in Hong Kong for its Independent Study Program. The affiliation will be officially recognized at a ceremony on November 17, to coincide with Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty's visit to China.

In July 2004, Senior Vice President Frank Cerra met Geoffrey Lieu, founder and chair of The Institute for Health Policy and Systems Research in Hong Kong, and discussed this venture with him. At the time, Cerra, with assistance from the China Center, was leading a delegation from the Academic Health Center schools to China.

At a luncheon meeting, hosted by alumnus Simon Wong, the AHC delegation met several other alumni from the U, including two Hong Kong alumni of the M.H.A.'s independent study program, Margaret S.M. Tay and Hok Cheung Ma. The U alumni and leaders present all were enthusiastic about the possibility of building a bridge.



Senior Vice President Frank Cerra meets with Simon K.W. Wong, chairman of Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants & Related Trades and president of the UMAA Hong Kong chapter

Vernon Weckwerth, who founded the ISP program in 1968, also is excited. He was not at that July meeting but has long envisioned this bridge to China. Interviewed recently, he said that he's been striving to move the health-care administration's ISP presence into China since 1988 because he believes the demand for this education will be high. Since the events of 9/11 have led to complications for international students in obtaining visas, however, the need to establish an office abroad has become urgent.

The ISP is primarily a distance-learning program but students spend some time in Minnesota. (The program originally was designed to provide distance-learning opportunities in Greater Minnesota but expanded to serve students in more than 40 countries.) Students are introduced to the program on campus during a two- to three-week summer session. "They then go home and implement monthly studies, returning two weeks every year for three years, while employed, and while altering the organization that they run," explained Weckwerth. Students earn a Credential of Advanced Studies or may earn an M.H.A. by returning to campus for a three-week session capped by a final defense of their research theses.

With the establishment of the Hong Kong ISP office, those who are interested in the University of Minnesota Master's in Healthcare Administration can obtain exactly the same education, expertise, and degree, but on Chinese soil.

— by Allison Campbell Jensen, with reporting by Andrew Bacskai, Academic Health Center

Chinese alumni win awards from the University

Wu Xi-Ru

Dr. Wu Xi-Ru was awarded the University's Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals at a reception held in her honor by the Medical School on Aug. 12, 2004. The award is given to international alumni and friends of the University who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their careers. A research fellow at the University in pediatric neurology from 1979 to 1982, Dr. Wu is one of the leading Chinese researchers in the field of the genetics of epilepsy. She is currently professor of pediatrics at Beijing Medical University.



Zhao "Alex" Zhang

Alex Zhang, a 1989 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, received the University's Outstanding Achievement Award in 2005. A native of Beijing, Zhang was one of China's first legal professionals awarded a Ford Foundation scholarship to pursue further legal studies in the United States. After receiving his J.D., he joined the corporate department of Dorsey & Whitney, eventually helping to open their Hong Kong and Shanghai offices. Zhang now works as a coordinator of the China investments practice at Jones Day and has become one of China's most recognized specialists in cross-border corporate and commercial transactions.



University President Robert Bruininks leads alumni in singing the "Minnesota Rouser" at a dinner with the Alumni Association's Taiwan chapter. Bruininks led a delegation to mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, Oct. 24-Nov. 5, 2004.

Training Programs

Mingda Institute named one of the top 15 training programs

In the past year, the Mingda Institute for Leadership Training made considerable progress and the training programs were a large success. There were a total of 11 training programs conducted for 215 Chinese government administrators, university presidents and educators, and private company CEOs. The number of trainees hosted this year alone is equal to the total number of trainees hosted since the creation of the Mingda Institute in 2001.



The Zhejiang delegation visits the St. Paul Winter Carnival

Our success is gaining some notice in China as well. At the 2005 Conference on International Exchange of Professionals in China, the Mingda Institute was newly ranked among the top 15 of more than 300 overseas institutions certified by the Chinese government to conduct overseas training programs.

“The University of Minnesota China Center is one of the best overseas training institutes,” reported Mr. Sun Zhaohua, deputy minister of the Chinese State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, who visited the Mingda Institute display at the conference. “I highly recommend that Chinese training organizers send their programs to the University of Minnesota.”

Major Training Programs 2004-05

- July 2004: Guangdong Province Business Management Training for Entrepreneurs
- August 2004: Fujian Province Public Health Administration & Education Training
- August-September 2004: Beijing Higher Education Policies & Administration Training
- September 2004: Zhejiang Province Technology & Environment Protection Policies Training
- November 2004: Sichuan Province Agriculture Administration Training
- December 2004: Sichuan Province Public Affairs & Government Administration Training
- December 2004-May 2005: Zhejiang Province Advanced WTO Training II
- January 2005: Sichuan University Medical Education & Hospital Administration Training
- May 2005: Guangdong Business Administration Training
- May 2005: Sichuan University Presidents Advanced Administration & Innovation Training
- July 2005: China University of Mining & Technology Junior Faculty Teaching Enrichment Training

Community Engagement

First Griffin Lecture focuses on U.S. trade and policy

The first Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture in November 2004 brought together experts on U.S. trade and policy.

Counselor Tian Jun of the Chinese Embassy and a chief negotiator of China's WTO accession agreement spoke of the positive relationship and economic partnership between the U.S. and China. He addressed many current concerns including the increased use of outsourcing by U.S. firms.



Photos on this page by Craig Barnes

From left: Hong Yang, Bob Griffin, Michael Jemal, Tian Jun, Charles Lee

Michael Jemal, CEO and president for Haier America, briefed the audience about the evolution of one of the largest Chinese companies operating in the U.S. Haier, headquartered in China, is a manufacturer of appliances, electronics, and other household goods. Haier America, an American-Chinese joint venture created by Jemal, began by distributing Haier goods to the U.S. marketplace and now has begun manufacturing many of those goods in the U.S.

U of M alumnus Dr. Charles Lee moderated the discussion and provided many anecdotal examples from his distinguished career in venture capitalism and his cross-cultural business interactions.

Endowed with a gift from Bob and Kim Griffin, the annual Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture supports quality educational programming that helps to foster understanding between Chinese and American people.

Following the lecture, the Science Museum of Minnesota invited the China Center and its guests to officially celebrate their newest exhibit, *Chinasaurus*. Counselor Tian rang the *luo* to open the doors to the exhibit. Many thanks to both the Science Museum of Minnesota and GE for their generous support of the China Center and this program!



Counselor Tian rings the *luo* to open the doors to the *Chinasaurus* exhibit

China Day

More than 400 students from five area high schools—and a few dinosaurs—participated in the fifth annual China Day on April 15, 2005. For the first time, China Day was located off campus at the Science Museum of Minnesota to take advantage of the museum's *Chinasaurs* exhibit, which showcased a variety of dinosaur bones found throughout China. Activities included a guided exploration of the exhibit, a presentation by the museum's paleontologist Dr. Kristi Curry-Rogers, a video about the role dragons play in Chinese culture, and an interactive game show called "Chinasaurs Jeopardy."



Students play "Chinasaurs Jeopardy" at the 2005 China Day

The students also heard from Ann Waltner, interim chair of the University's Department of Asian Languages and Literatures, about the importance of learning the Chinese language. The event was capped off with a delicious Chinese lunch.

Students from Breck School and Highland Park, Minneapolis South, Minnetonka, and St. Paul Central high schools participated. The goal of China Day is to encourage high school students to continue studying the Chinese language and be involved in China affairs.



The China Center Dragons won first place in their division at the dragon boat races at the 2004 Dragon Festival on Lake Phalen in St. Paul. The team also won the best t-shirt design award. The team included University students and staff and Mingda training program participants.

Corporate Partnership

Corporate Partnerships build stronger bridges

The China Center's Corporate Partnership and the China Business Colloquium programs have strengthened the bridges between the University and the corporate community by connecting businesses to custom educational programs, providing tailored China expertise, and offering access to the University's network of professionals, educators, and government officials in China.



David Gahn, vice president and general manager for SoftBrands, Inc., presents at the May 2005 China Business Colloquium

Several new partners joined the China Center Corporate Partnership in 2005. Best Buy and Cargill joined at the Golden Dragon level with gifts of \$25,000. Griffin International Companies joined at the Great Wall level with a gift of \$10,000. Dorsey & Whitney, L.L.P.; Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.; and Lurie Besikof Lapidus and Co., L.L.P., all joined at the Yangtze River level with gifts of \$5,000. These gifts will strategically

develop programs and partnerships in China and provide enhanced programming for the trainees in the Mingda Institute for Leadership Training and other visiting delegations.

The China Center fosters direct connections for businesses by inviting businesses to network with the trainees in the Mingda Institute, visiting delegations, and government officials, such as Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong (see photo). With each connection, the China Center is building bridges for a stronger U.S.-China partnership.



China Center Director Hong Yang welcomes His Excellency Zhou Wenzhong, Chinese ambassador to the U.S., in May 2005

China Center Friends

China Center Friends carries success into its second year

In only its second year, the China Center Friends organized and sponsored a host of successful programs. In late July, Chinese pianist Di Wu performed at Hamline University's Sundin Hall. Her father, renowned opera singer Peiwen Wu, joined her on stage to delight the nearly full-house audience.

The beautiful watercolor paintings of Song Jinsheng were on display at the University's Campus Club for most of November in an exhibit cosponsored by the China Center Friends.

Friends gathered at the Weisman Art Museum on February 9 to celebrate the Chinese New Year with a dinner and porcelain exhibit. Chris Madonna generously displayed his collection of rare porcelains from his collection and Robert Poor, professor in the Department of Art History, spoke about the history of Chinese porcelains.



China Center Friends Executive Committee at the Chinese New Year's event

The China Center Friends hosted an exciting April evening at the Children's Theatre Company for an unforgettable performance of *The Monkey King*, a play based on Wu Chen-En's *A Journey To The West*, one of the most celebrated Chinese novels. An exclusive reception with the artistic directors and actors followed the performance.



Photo courtesy of Jill Griffiths

Face painting at the spring picnic at Como Park

Despite unseasonably cool weather, the China Center Friends and their families gathered at Como Park in May for a spring picnic. Celebrating the end of spring semester finals and the beginning of "summer," the Friends enjoyed American-style foods and family-friendly games.

Contributors

Making possible what was only imagined before

By Diane Young, University of Minnesota Foundation

Let the numbers speak for themselves:

- From fiscal year 2003 to 2005, the number of donors to the China Center increased from four to 71, and the amount they contributed increased from \$3,530 to \$94,015.
- The number of donors supporting scholarships through the Red Pockets Appeal increased from 22 in 2004 to 35 in 2005, and the total donations increased from \$3,075 to \$8,235.

These are remarkable numbers that speak volumes about the value placed on the mission of building U.S.-China bridges by the more than 70 individual and corporate donors who have invested financially to support the work of the University of Minnesota China Center during fiscal year 2005. These numbers also speak to the trust placed in the China Center leadership and staff to carry out the mission. These numbers further speak to the strong partnership evolving between donors and the China Center leadership and staff.

The articles throughout this annual report paint an inspiring picture of the energetic, creative, and entrepreneurial approach of a very talented and dedicated China Center staff. The picture is made more vibrant by the philanthropic partnership evolving with a growing number of committed and generous donors.

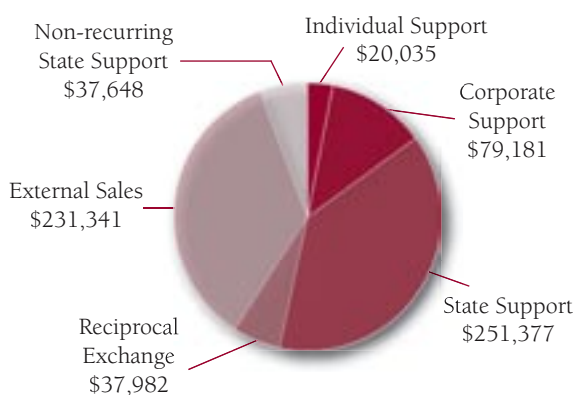
To discuss how you can become a part of this philanthropic partnership through your own outright gift or bequest to support the China Center, call me at 612-624-8819. Online gifts can be made at www.giving.umn.edu.

Diane Young is a University of Minnesota Foundation major gifts officer working with the China Center to make greatness possible through philanthropy.

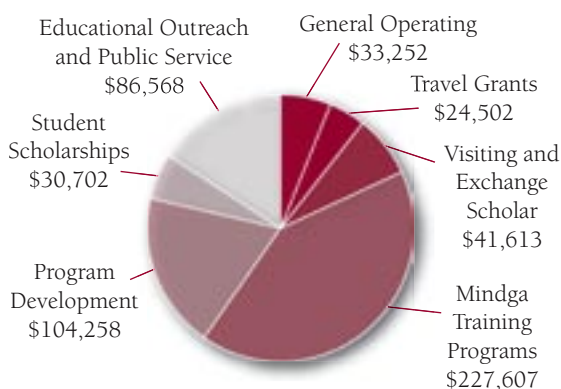
Financial Report

7/1/04-6/30/05

Revenues: \$657,280



Expenditures: \$548,503



Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who generously supported the China Center in 2004-05.

Gifts listed were received between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2005.

Gifts of \$25,000

Best Buy Co., Inc.
Cargill

Gifts of \$12,000

Griffin International Companies

Gifts of \$1,000 to \$9,999

Bruce B. Dayton & Ruth A. Stricker
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Rongsheng Ruan & Aihua Song
Walter Warpeha Jr. & Mary Warpeha
Wells Fargo Bank N.A.
Wood-Rill Foundation
Zhao "Alex" Zhang

Gifts of \$500 to \$999

M.F. Jim Tchou

Gifts of \$100 to \$499

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Yue-him Tam
Three Friends of Winter Antiques
Thomas Ting
Xiaoyang Zhu & Athena Guo

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Akiko Fukushima
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John H. Lee
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Bridgit K. Waterman
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Jane Untz & Zheng Zhao
Mahmood A. Zaidi
Randal J. Zimmermann

In Kind Donations

3M
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Cargill
China Insight
China Tribune
Chinese American Business Association of Minnesota
Coca-Cola Beverage Partnership
Dorsey & Whitney, L.L.P.
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
GE

Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Hennepin County Medical Center
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MN Trade Office
MN Department of Agriculture
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Seagate Technology
Science Museum of Minnesota
SoftBrands, Inc.
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U.S. Small Business Administration

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Taiwan Student Association
University of Minnesota, Crookston
University of Minnesota Foundation
University of Minnesota, Morris
College of Veterinary Medicine

China Center Scholarships and Exchanges, 2004-05

The China Center is proud to offer scholarships and exchange opportunities to University of Minnesota students. These are made possible by generous gifts from donors and long-standing relationships with Chinese institutions. Last year, more than a dozen students received scholarships from the China Center to study in China. These experiences can have a great impact on students.

Jay Whitmore, a geography graduate student, participated in the “Community Involvement in Water Resources” seminar held in Sichuan Province in May 2005. He says his experiences in China will influence his future research and hopefully bring him back to China soon.

“...we also visited the Woolong Panda Reserve. It was here that I started to appreciate the grand environmental resources that China possesses. This area also fueled my own feelings toward conservation and management of resources,” he wrote in a report after the trip. “I look forward to fostering relationships within the scientific community that I was able to start before going to and while in China. My future research interests regard the forests of northeast China, and I plan to travel there at first opportunity.”

With continued support from generous donors, the China Center hopes to offer additional scholarships to encourage even more students to study in China.

Hsiao Scholarship

Leah Brus
Irina Comardicea
Ashley Hasti
Elizabeth Johnson
Allison Merkley
Jay Whitmore

Red Pockets Scholarship

Carol Brash
Scott Divine
Kyle Dullinger
Amanda Egdorf
Sean Hammond
Ashley Hasti
Elizabeth Johnson
Lynette Johnson
Allison Merkley
Mee Moua
Carlos R. Principe

Chinese Universities Exchange Program

Christian Daniel Golightly

International Reciprocal Student Exchange Program

Hannah E. Joslin



Hsiao Scholarship recipients with Fred and Jennie Hsiao

China Center Advisory Council Members 2004-05

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Term Ending June 2005

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Term Ending June 2006

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China Center Office Information

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Assistant Director: Joan Brzezinski
Training Program Coordinator: Yuedong Zhou
Program Coordinator: Jennifer Wu Dunn
Community Program Specialist: Joab Meyer
Training Program Assistant: Chang Wang
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Romenesko, Angel Wu

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Location

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Web: www.chinacenter.umn.edu

China Center Mission

The University of Minnesota China Center builds bridges between the U.S. and Greater China. To fulfill this mission, the China Center draws on the strengths of the University of Minnesota and partners with public and private organizations in Minnesota and the U.S. to promote relations with Greater China by:

- Facilitating educational exchange, collaborative research, teaching, and training activities
- Fostering an understanding of history, cultures, and values
- Serving as a catalyst and resource for the promotion of economic, governmental, and civic pursuits
- Increasing mutual interest and understanding

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